

Application No.: 10/680,634

Docket No.: 63427-0284

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 3, 4-10 and 21-23 now appear for consideration, claims 1, 2 and 11-20 having been cancelled herewith.

Independent claim 3 (as amended) and new independent claim 23 are both directed to an outer shell having at least two shell sections that are releasable from a resiliently compressible inner assembly. The Examiner had indicated that dependent claim 20 (that included a resiliently compressible inner assembly) and dependent claim 13 (that included a resiliently compressible member between upper and lower members of the inner assembly) would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. It is also noted that dependent claims 3 and 10 (both of which had corresponding limitations) were not rejected on the prior art.

Judkins et al does not disclose a resiliently compressible inner assembly, and none of the cited prior art discloses the combination now appearing in claims 3 and 23.

The pending claims have now been amended to avoid the lack of antecedent problem noted by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 63427-0284 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 1, 2004

Customer No. 010291

Respectfully submitted,

By Richard D. Grauer

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